

20 Jan 31
COMMISSIONER BOWERS' REPORT

**Dogfish Flesh Is Wholesome
Food of Good Flavor.**

**Their Numbers Would Increase if
Market Were Created.**

The annual report of Commissioner of Fisheries George M. Bowers, to the secretary of commerce and labor for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905, has been issued.

Under the heading of "Food of Dogfishes," the commissioner says:

"For several years there have been conducted investigations upon the food of certain fishes of little or no food value, though of considerable indirect importance, and this work has been continued in 1905. Two species, the smooth dogfish and the horned dogfish, which were studied in southern New England, have been shown to be so destructive to food species as to be a distinct menace to the fisheries.

"The smooth dogfish feeds principally on large crustaceans, nearly all of which are of direct economic value, and conspicuous among which is the lobster. Estimating the number of smooth dogfish in Buzzards Bay as 100,000, which is conservative, and allowing each dogfish one lobster in three days, there would be represented a destruction of 150,000 lobsters in one month, or 750,000 during the five months of the presence of the dogfish in the region.

"In the vicinity of Woods Hole the principal food of horned dogfish is a little jellyfish, but observations on other parts of the coast indicate that not only food fishes but the nets and lines of the fishermen are destroyed. Ground fishing in Boston Bay in 1903 yielded an average of \$3 a day per man during July and August, but in 1904 the horned dogfish was present in such great numbers that it was impossible to catch anything else.

"When fish of value were taken they were torn in pieces by dogfish before they could be landed. Herring, mackerel, and other food fish are torn from the gill nets by this species, which, when itself enmeshed, so tears the twine with its teeth and abrades it with its

rough scales as to ruin the nets. It is estimated that in 1904 the loss in catch and gear from this cause amounted to \$10,000 in Boston Bay alone, and the destruction extends in even greater measure northward. The damage has vastly increased in recent years.

"The most practicable way to hold these destructive fishes in check would be to make them of commercial value. Although they have fewer enemies than most fishes, on the other hand they do not breed so rapidly, and if a market for them were created it would not be long until their numbers would decrease. The species offer commercial possibilities, of which some are suggested: (1) The skin makes a good polishing leather for metals and hard wood; it is used for this purpose by cabinet-makers in many parts of Europe. (2) The liver, at least of the horned dogfish, when boiled down into oil gives a fair yield, but at present the price of dogfish livers is too low to make this business pay. (3) The fins yield a considerable amount of glue; by simple boiling a fair quality was extracted. (4) The flesh is a wholesome food, and is eaten in Europe and elsewhere; it is free from bones, and when cooked it is of delicate texture, somewhat dry, with a good flavor, resembling halibut, but more delicate."

Regarding the fisheries of the United States the commissioner says:

"The value of the water products taken and sold by United States fishermen in 1905 was approximately \$56,250,000, and this sum is exclusive of the very considerable fisheries of insular possessions and the immense quantities of fish taken for home consumption and by sportsmen. In no other country are the

commercial fisheries more valuable as a whole than in the United States, and in no country is the financial condition of the fishing population better. The number of persons who make a livelihood in this industry is about 232,000, and the capital invested exceeds \$82,000,000.

"At Gloucester, Mass., several much-needed improvements to the buildings and station have been completed. Among the principal of these were the laying of a marine telephone cable from the island to the mainland, and a considerable addition to the pier. A wing to the hatchery, 20 by 30 feet, was erected, and the foundations of the building and those under the boiler and chimney were strengthened. The main hatchery, containing the lobster apparatus, was fitted throughout with galvanized iron pipe, and by a re-arrangement of the tables, room was made for five additional cod tables, thus increasing the total capacity from 50,000 to 65,000 cod eggs."

Jan. 31
DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Willie L. Swift, Bucksport, Me., 300 qtls. cured fish.

Sch. Elmer E. Gray, via Boston, 25,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.

Salt handline Georges codfish, \$5.25 per cwt. for large, \$4.25 for medium.

Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$5 for large, 4.00 for medium.

Salt hake, \$1.25.

Salt haddock, \$1.75.

Salt cusk, \$2.50.

Salt trawl bank codfish, \$4.50 for large, \$4.00 for medium, \$2.75 for snappers.

Newfoundland salt herring, in bulk, \$4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland salt herring, barrelled, \$5.75 per bbl.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Fresh halibut, 12 cents per lb for white and 8 cents for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish, large cod, \$2.40 medium cod, \$1.50; haddock, \$1.00; hake 90 cts.; cusk, \$1.50; pollock, 65 cts.

Boston.

Sch. Motor, 3000 haddock, 9000 cod.

Sch. William A. Morse, 10,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 400 halibut.

Sch. Mooween, 65,000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Preceptor, 60,000 haddock, 25,000 cod, 10,000 hake, 10,000 cusk, 2000 pollock, 800 halibut.

Sch. Emily Cooney, 7500 haddock, 200 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Mary A. Whalen, 45,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Louise C. Cabral, 7000 haddock, 500 cod, 1500 hake.

Haddock, \$1 to \$1.75; large cod, \$3 to \$4; market cod, \$1.50; hake, \$2 to \$2.25; pollock, \$2.50.

Herring Notes.

Sch. Lucinda I. Lowell, which has been to New York and discharged her cargo of frozen herring, arrived home last night with a cargo of coal for the Gloucester Coal Company.

Jan. 31
THE MODUS VIVENDI.

**Request Made To Do Away with
the Tonnage Tax.**

**Others, However, Favor No
Granting of the Licenses.**

A Halifax, N. S., dispatch of yesterday says:

Strong representations in favor of the abrogation of the modus vivendi by which American fishermen have the privilege of purchasing bait, ice, seines and supplies, shipping crews and trans-shipping their catch in Canadian harbors, were made today to the tariff commission.

The question was brought up on application of J. A. Mackassey of Halifax for a reduction of license fee of \$1.50 a ton now paid by American fishing vessels for these privileges. He urged that these fishermen spend a great deal of money along the Atlantic coast and that their coming should be encouraged.

This request was vigorously opposed by C. H. Mitchell and A. E. Jones, leading fish merchants of Halifax, who argued that instead of limiting the restriction the fishermen should be debarred from the advantages that they now enjoy in Canadian waters, for which the small license fee was no compensation.

They made a strong plea for the abrogation of the modus vivendi, claiming that it was building up American fishing ports and fleets at the expense of Canada, and that Nova Scotians were investing their capital in and manning the Gloucester fleets. The only possible return to Canada was the money spent for bait at the coast ports, but as the supply of bait was inadequate for home fishermen, the result was ruinous to Nova Scotia's fishing interests, shut out from the American market by a high tariff.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, replied that the matter was of great importance and that the commission would submit the representation to the government.

OUR PENSACOLA LETTER.

**Heaviest Red Snapper Receipts
Known for Years.**

**Two of Crew of Sch. Gertrude
Somers Are Lost.**

A letter to the TIMES from its Pensacola, Florida, correspondent, dated January 28, says that the receipts of red snappers the past week have been heavy, three firms having 80,000. The receipts were by many thousands the largest known there for years. Eighteen vessels from one firm landed 40,000. Some of the vessels that arrived there two or days ago had not been able to take out.

The fleet averaged about 20 days on this last trip, the average share being \$25, and the largest \$46. The stocks were from \$900 to \$1000, the Algoma, Capt. C. P. Matheson, being high line. The weather has been fine and fish plentiful in the deep water on Campeche Bank.

Sch. Clara R. Grimes, formerly of this port, broke from her moorings during a storm a week ago Sunday night and went ashore on the beach. She was damaged by pounding on the rocks and sank. She has been raised and repaired, the damage not being heavy.

The steamer Shinnecock, while coming up Key West harbor on the night of January 19, ran into a dingy containing three of the crew of sch. Gertrude Somers. Two of the men, who were Danes, and whose names were not known were drowned, and Oscar Berry was rescued by a boat from the steamer.